

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10
NSAE-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 HA-05 /088 W
-----044168 010913Z /13

R 311340Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2365
INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
USMISSION GENEVA
USINT HAVANA
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRETORIA 5136

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: REPR, PINS, MPOS, SF, WA, AO
SUBJECT: REPORTED EXCHANGE OF PRISONERS BETWEEN SA
AND ANGOLA

1. SOUTH AFRICAN PRESS ACCOUNTS OF AUGUST 31 REPORT THAT
FOREIGN MINISTER BOTHA ANNOUNCED, PRIOR TO DEPARTURE ON
AUGUST 30 FOR NEW YORK, THAT THERE WOULD BE A PRISONER
EXCHANGE BETWEEN SOUTH AFRICA AND ANGOLA. HIS STATEMENT
AS REPORTED READ "THE RSA AND THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF
ANGOLA HAVE MUTUALLY DECIDED TO PROCEED WITH THE EXCHANGE
OF WAR PRISONERS. THE EXCHANGE, AS MUTUALLY AGREED, IS
TO TAKE PLACE UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE INTERNATIONAL
COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS." PRESS REPORTS SAY BOTHA
WOULD GIVE NO INFORMATION ON THE NUMBER OF PRISONERS
INVOLVED OR THE TIMING OF THE EXCHANGE, ADDING ONLY
"WE MUST NOW HAVE PATIENCE." SADF SPOKESMAN WAS
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QUOTED AS SAYING THE SADF HAD NO COMMENT ON THE
MATTER AND IT WAS BEING "HANDLED ENTIRELY BY THE
DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS."

2. ONE ACCOUNT REPORTS A RED CROSS SPOKESMAN IN
GENEVA AS SAYING THAT THE THREE CUBANS HELD IN SOUTH
AFRICA WOULD BE EXCHANGED FOR ALL NINE SOUTH AFRICAN

PRISONERS IN ANGOLA BUT COULD GIVE NO FURTHER DETAILS
ON TIME OR PLACE.

3. COMMENT: NEWS OF THE AGREED EXCHANGE WILL ENHANCE
PERCEPTIONS HERE OF ANGOLA'S REASONABLENESS AND ITS
INTEREST IN DAMPENING CONFRONTATION WITH SOUTH AFRICA.
THUS, IT COULD HELP IMPROVE THE POLITICAL ENVIRONMENT FOR
A SAG DECISION TO MOVE AHEAD WITH IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE WESTERN PROPOSAL FOR NAMIBIA ON THE BASIS OF
THE SYG'S PLAN.
EDMONDSON

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Message Attributes

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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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